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FRP: 2.

BRIEF

PAGE 001
TOT: [REDACTED]BRIEF
TO: -PRIORITY LATIN AMERICA BRIEF.

WNINTEL

SUBJECT: HEREWITH SUPPORT CABLE FOR LATIN AMERICA BRIEF
FOR MONDAY, 15 OCTOBER 1990.SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICA BRIEF [REDACTED] FOR MONDAY, 15 OCTOBER
1990.

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1. HAITI: EXTREMISTS THREATEN ELECTION MOMENTUM [REDACTED]

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DESPITE A PROMISING START AND NEW FOREIGN SUPPORT, HAITI'S ELECTION REMAINS HOSTAGE TO THE THREAT OF VIOLENCE FROM EXTREMIST FORMER DUVALIERISTS. [REDACTED]

THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON WEDNESDAY AUTHORIZED SENDING AS MANY AS 420 OBSERVERS AND SECURITY ADVISERS TO MONITOR THE ELECTION SET FOR 16 DECEMBER, AND FRANCE APPROVED A \$2 MILLION PACKAGE OF ELECTION-RELATED AID. [REDACTED] VOTER REGISTRATION, WHICH ENDS ON 26 OCTOBER, IS OFF TO A GOOD START.

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SECRET

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TOT:

PARTICULARLY IN THE CITIES. ALMOST 10 PERCENT OF HAITI'S 3 MILLION
ELIGIBLE VOTERS REGISTERED LAST WEEKEND.

FORMER DUVALIERIST MINISTER LAFONTANT, HOWEVER, HAS CONTINUED
HIS QUEST FOR THE PRESIDENCY, DESPITE GOVERNMENT THREATS TO ARREST
HIM ON AN IMMIGRATION TECHNICALITY.

ELECTION SECURITY WILL DEPEND HEAVILY ON THE HAITIAN ARMY,
WHICH IS BADLY EQUIPPED, UNDISCIPLINED,ILL HOUSED, AND POORLY FED.
LAFONTANT HAS MANY FOLLOWERS IN THE
ARMY.

THE PRESENCE OF INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS WILL HELP
BUILD POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE ELECTION, BUT THOSE UNARMED TEAMS ARE
UNLIKELY TO GREATLY DETER THE EXTREMISTS. THE GOVERNMENT PROBABLY
STILL NEEDS AN ADDITIONAL \$3-4 MILLION TO FINANCE THE ELECTION, BUT
FOREIGN DONORS WILL BE RELUCTANT UNTIL THEY GAUGE THE SUCCESS OF THE
REGISTRATION PROCESS AND THE THREAT POSED BY EXTREMISTS.

SUCCESSFUL ELECTION HOPES FOR A
REST ON WHETHER THE ARMY CONTAINS
VIOLENCE FAILURES BY THE ARMY WOULD QUICKLY DAMPEN FOREIGN AND
DOMESTIC COMMITMENT TO THE ELECTION.

FOREIGN AID FOR THE HAITIAN ELECTION SLOW TO DEVELOP

MOST DONORS ARE OPTING TO PROVIDE "IN KIND" ASSISTANCE. THE
US HAS BEEN THE LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR--PROMISING A TOTAL OF \$6.5
MILLION AND IS THE ONLY DONOR TO EARMARK ANY PORTION OF ITS
ASSISTANCE--THROUGH THE OAS--FOR THE PURCHASE OF SECURITY-RELATED
EQUIPMENT. THE RECENT FRENCH COMMITMENT OF \$2 MILLION INCLUDES FUNDS
FOR PRINTING AND FOR VOTER EDUCATION. VENEZUELA IS WILLING TO SELL
HAITI OIL ON CONCESSIONARY TERMS AND MAY PROVIDE MOTOR SCOOTERS AND
OFFICE EQUIPMENT. CANADA HAS PROMISED \$800,000 WORTH OF PAPER,
BALLOT BOXES, AND PRIVACY SCREENS. GERMANY HAS TO DECIDE WHAT
MATERIALS TO OFFER, BUT OFFICIALS HAVE SAID THEIR CONTRIBUTION WILL
BE WORTH SOME \$660,000. A FEW CARIBBEAN AND LATIN COUNTRIES HAVE
ANNOUNCED WILLINGNESS TO SEND OBSERVERS. ENOUGH
AID HAS BEEN COMMITTED BY FOREIGN DONORS SO FAR TO FINANCE THE
PROCESS ONLY AS FAR AS THE END OF VOTER REGISTRATION.

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